GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3558
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
SEX RATIO
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ratio between female and male in India is abnormally low as compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the sex ratio in India as compared to other developing countries;

(c) whether malnutrition and lack of medical attention are the main cause of this low ratio; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) According to the 1991 Population Census, India had a sex ratio for the total population of about 108 males per 100 females, which is higher than the observed range of sex ratios for other countries (101-106).

(b) The reasons for the increase in sex ratios at birth in these areas could be under registration of female births or sex selection induced abortions.

(c) Malnutrition should not be considered as a direct cause of lower sex ratio at birth.

(d) Government of India is implementing Reproductive and Child Health Programme since 1997 for Mother and Child Care Services with special emphasis on quality of Primary Health Care and Clients satisfaction.